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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 24-HOUR REPORT

**18 APRIL 2018**

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#### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

##### **(U) Berkeley – Suspect Arrested in Caustic Chemical Attack**

(U) A 62-year-old transient has been arrested in a caustic chemical attack on a female UC Berkeley employee at Wheeler Hall. The suspect, William Kearney, is being held in lieu of \$200,000 bail at Santa Rita Jail on a charge of assault with a caustic chemical. Kearney was identified as the suspect after a follow-up investigation by UC detectives, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

SOURCE: 17 April 2018, [East Bay Times](#)

#### **(U) NATIONAL**

##### **(U) District of Columbia – Authorities Investigate Suspicious Package near US Supreme Court**

(U) Washington DC – Police are investigating the report of a suspicious package near the US Supreme Court in DC. The police investigation closed Second Street, between Independence Avenue and Constitution Avenue, and East Capitol Street, between First and Second Streets. No injuries have been reported.

SOURCE: 18 April 2018, [FOX 5](#)

##### **(U) District of Columbia – Justice Department Announces Crackdown on Opioid Drug Trafficking Ring**

(U) Washington DC – The US Justice Department took steps to crack down on a major opioid drug trafficking ring in a move that included the filing of federal and state charges against about 100 defendants and the seizure of 450 grams of fentanyl. The takedown of what was referred to as the Peterson Drug Trafficking Organization involved law enforcement from federal, state, and local agencies who targeted alleged drug traffickers in Huntington, West Virginia. Charges are also being filed against defendants in Detroit, Michigan—the supply hub for the trafficking group.

SOURCE: 17 April 2018, [Reuters](#)

##### **(U) Kansas – Militia Members Wanted to Kill Muslims, Send Message**

(U) Garden City – Three men charged with plotting to bomb an apartment complex in western Kansas, where Muslim immigrants from Somalia lived and had a mosque, wanted to kill as many as possible and send a message they were not welcome in the United States, a federal prosecutor said at their trial yesterday. Prosecutors charged Curtis Allen, Gavin Wright, and Patrick Eugene Stein each with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction and conspiring to deny others' civil rights. Stein also faces weapons-related charges, and Wright is charged with lying to the FBI. Officials have said the men, who face life in prison if convicted, were members of a militia group.

SOURCE: 17 April 2018, [Reuters](#)

##### **(U) New York – Trial Date Set for Accused Subway Bomber**

(U) New York City – A federal judge on Tuesday set a 29 October trial date for Akayed Ullah, the Bangladeshi man accused of attempting an ISIS-inspired suicide bomb attack on a busy New York City commuter hub in December. Ullah, 28, was arrested on 11 December 2017 after trying to detonate a pipe bomb secured to his body in a pedestrian tunnel in New York's subway system. The charges against

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him include supporting a foreign terrorist organization, using a weapon of mass destruction, and carrying out a terrorist attack against a mass transit system. Ullah faces life in prison if convicted.

SOURCE: 17 April 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Egypt – ISIS Leader in Sinai Killed in Shootout**

(U) Cairo – Egypt's military says its forces have killed a man they identified as the leader of ISIS in the Sinai Peninsula. Col. Tamer el-Rifai, a military spokesman, stated that Naser Abou Zaqoul was killed in a shootout with troops in central Sinai, but did not elaborate on details. The news came just days after the military said eight soldiers were killed and 15 wounded when militants wearing explosive belts blew themselves up as they tried to infiltrate a military base in central Sinai.

SOURCE: 18 April 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Germany – Police Crack Down on Suspected Thai Prostitution Ring**

(U) Maintal – German authorities searched 62 brothels, offices, and homes in several federal states and arrested seven people on Wednesday in a crackdown on suspected human trafficking in connection with a Thai prostitution ring, prosecutors said. The investigation turned up 56 people, aged 26 to 66, who are suspected of crimes related to human trafficking, forced prostitution, pimping, withholding of wages, and tax evasion, the Frankfurt General Prosecutor's Office said in a statement.

SOURCE: 18 April 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Iraq – Two Members of Alleged Sydney Airport Terrorist Plot Arrested**

(U) Baghdad – Two ISIS fighters allegedly connected to Australian terrorism—including a plot to blow up a plane leaving Sydney last year—have been captured in Iraq. An ISIS commander and Lebanese citizen, Tarek Khayat, and his Australian relative Ahmed Merhi were detained earlier this year. The two were in close contact with some of Australia's most notorious terrorism suspects from Syria but are believed to have moved to Iraq when ISIS changed territories last year. Tarek Khayat is alleged to have directed his Sydney-based brothers to smuggle a bomb hidden inside a meat grinder on to an Etihad plane due to depart from Sydney for Abu Dhabi on 15 July.

SOURCE: 17 April 2018, [Australian Associated Press](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.****(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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